

1946

Camborne-Redruth Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ROBERT POLLOK,

T.D., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin., L.R.F.P. & S. Glasgow, D.R.C.O.G., L.D.S.

for the twelve months ending

DECEMBER 31, 1946.

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CAMBNRNE-REDRUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report

for the year ending December 31, 1946.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District during the year 1946.

You will remember that I was appointed part-time temporary Medical Officer of Health on the 1st September, 1946, in succession to that very erudite and distinguished physician, Charles Rivers, M.D., who had been Medical Officer of Health in this area both before, and since, amalgamation for about a quarter of a century.

These are days of rapid changes, and in this country the drive for the greatest possible benefit to the utmost possible number of people goes on with increasing speed.

The new National Health Service Bill is now law, and should come into force probably in July, 1948, and it is likely before that time, or by that time, you will share a full-time Medical Officer of Health with Helston Borough, and Kerrier Rural District, and my interim services will no longer be required.

So this is probably in the nature of a "Hail and Farewell" Report, and is likely to be my first and last effort in that direction. I have had the greatest possible help from all the officials of the council, and from the chairman, and members of the health committee.

I shall now proceed to make my report, and make any comment that may seem to me helpful as I go along.

SECTION A. Statistics and social conditions of the area.

1. Statistics.

[illegible]

SECTION A (Statistics)—continued.

2. Employment.

The number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Camborne and Redruth Employment Exchange areas in July, 1946, was:—

Males.	Females.
7,429	2,730

Compared with the previous year this is an increase of 1,204 for males and a decrease of 406 for females, and these figures reveal the trend of industrial absorption and redundancy respectively as a result of demobilization.

By the end of the year 1945 the figures of unemployment had more than doubled, and with the change-over from War to Peace-time production, many firms were compelled to declare redundancies among their workpeople. Throughout 1946 there was little demand for unskilled workers, and Civil Engineering firms which have provided a source of employment on Airfields and other Government establishments moved out of the area on cessation of contracts. In August the Dehydration Section of the Milk Marketing Board closed down and approximately 100 workers were added to the unemployed registers.

Demands for juveniles were consistent and any spells of unemployment were of short duration.

The prospects of reducing unemployment to any great extent in 1947 as regards male workers are not bright. New firms which will eventually commence operations in the district have decided on sites, but with new buildings and structural alterations involved, progress is bound to be slow.

Four new firms engaged in the Blouse, Dress, and Corset making industries have commenced business during the year, and opened up avenues of employment for some 150 women and girls. They introduced a five day working week (no Saturday work) and this innovation has proved to be most popular and attractive.

Unemployment in Camborne and Redruth in 1946.

Statistics for four quarterly dates.

Date	MEN aged 18 years and over.	BOYS Under 18 years.	WOMEN aged 18 years and over.	GIRLS Under 18 years.	TOTAL.
14.1.46	290	11	130	7	438
8.4.46	378	6	93	1	478
15.7.46	368	3	63	1	435
14.10.46	433	10	104	4	551

3. Poor Law Relief.

In the year	1935	1939	1942	1945	1946
In cash and in kind	£22,443	£20,724	£13,453	£13,460	£13,369
Relief in 1946 included					
relief in cash			.....	£12,350	
relief in kind			.....	£1,019	
			Total	£13,369	

4. VITAL STATISTICS.**Live Births.**

	Males.	Females.	1946 Total.	1945 Total.	1936 Total.
Legitimate	318	285	603	439	454
Illegitimate	26	7	33	75	29
Total Live Births	344	292	636	514	483

SECTION A (Statistics)—continued.

Birth Rate (Live Births per 1,000 estimated mean annual population).

Year	.....	.....	1946.	1945.	1936.
			<u>18.52</u>	<u>15.58</u>	<u>13.69</u>

Still Births.

		Males.	Females.	1946 Total.	1945 Total.	1936 Total.
Legitimate	.....	15	9	24	26	15
Illegitimate	.....	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Still Births		16	9	25	30	15
		—	—	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births				36.3	55.1	32.3

Deaths from all causes.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	1945 Total.	1936 Total.
	236	266	502	481	520

Death Rate (that is deaths per 1,000 mean annual population).

Year	.....	.....	1946.	1945.	1944.	1936.
			<u>14.59</u>	<u>14.21</u>	<u>14.71</u>	<u>14.74</u>

The death rate for 1946, 14.59 is higher than that for England and Wales 11.5, but for that matter the death rate for Cornwall for 1946 14.32 was higher than the England and Wales figure for 1946 11.5.

Comparative Birth and Death Rates for the year 1946.

	Camborne-Redruth.	England & Wales.	148 Smaller Res. Pop. 50,000.	126 County Boros. & Great Towns including London.
Live Birth Rate	18.52	19.1	21.3	22.2
Still Birth Rate	.72	0.53	0.59	0.67
Death Rate	14.59	11.5	11.7	12.7

Comment. The Camborne-Redruth Birth Rate 18.52 although slightly below that for England and Wales shows a healthy increase. There is a drop in the number of illegitimate births. There is a slight drop in the still birth rate which approximates more closely to the still birth rate for England and Wales. There is still, however, room for further improvement here.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

		Males.	Females.	1946 Total.	1945 Total.	1936 Total.
Legitimate	.....	11	8	19	13	23
Illegitimate	.....	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	.....	13	9	22	17	24

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

	Camborne-Redruth			England & Wales.		
	1946.	1945.	1936.	1946.	1945.	1936.
All infants per 1,000 live births	34.59	33.1	49.6	43.	46.	59.
Legitimate per 1,000 live births	31.50	20.9	—	—	—	—
Illegitimate per 1,000 live births	90.90	53.3	—	—	—	—

Infant Mortality (Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births).

Camborne-Redruth.			England & Wales.			148 Smaller Towns Res. Pop. 25,000-50,000		
1946.	1945.	1936.	1946.	1945.	1936.	1946.	1945.	1936
34.59	33.1	49.6	43.	56.	59.	37.	—	—

SECTION A (Statistics)—continued.

The infant mortality rate shows a very slight increase on the 1945 figure 34.59 as against 33.1. It is, however, well below the figure for England and Wales for 1946, viz., 43, and even compares favourably with the figures for the average for the 148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000-50,000, that is areas similar in size, and population to Camborne-Redruth, the report mortality rate for which is 37 for 1946.

Deaths from Diarrhoea, and Enteritis under two years of age. Three children all under one year of age died under this heading in 1945.

	Camborne-Redruth	England & Wales.	148 Smaller Towns Res. Pop. 25,000-50,000
Per Live Births	4.7	4.4	2.8

5. Population.

Year.	Registrar General's Estimated Figure.	Births.	Deaths.	Birth and Death Ratio.
1936	..... 35,000	..... 483	..... 520	..... —37
1937	..... 35,000	..... 487	..... 580	..... —93
1938	..... 35,000	..... 463	..... 540	..... —77
1939	..... 35,000	..... 514	..... 566	..... —48
1940	..... 35,000	..... 486	..... 567	..... —81
1941	..... 35,000 — — —
1942	..... 35,000	..... 542	..... 472	..... + 70
1943	..... 34,670	..... 646	..... 510	..... +136
1944	..... 34,670	..... 587	..... 510	..... + 77
1945	..... 33,850	..... 514	..... 481	..... + 33
1946	..... 34,330	..... 636	..... 502	..... +134

The causes of death in the area in the year 1946.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory organs.....	16	4	20
2. Tuberculosis of other parts	2	1	3
3. Syphilis	1	0	1
4. Influenza	3	2	5
5. Measles	0	0	0
6. Cerebro-spinal-fever	1	0	1
7. Diphtheria	1	3	4
8. Diarrhoea (in child under two years)	1	2	3
9. Whooping cough	0	0	0
10. Cancer	21	47	68
11. Diabetes	1	4	5
12. Heart diseases	76	92	168
13. Disease of blood vessels	27	35	62
14. Bronchitis	10	7	17
15. Pneumonia	9	11	20
16. Other respiratory diseases	13	1	14
17. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	0	2
18. Appendicitis	1	0	1
19. Other digestive diseases	1	4	5
20. Nephritis	7	9	16
21. Puerperal sepsis	0	0	0
22. Other maternal causes	0	0	0
23. Premature births	6	3	9
24. Congenital debility	3	3	6
25. Suicide	2	0	2
26. Road traffic accident	1	0	1
27. Other violent causes	3	4	7
28. All other causes	28	34	62
Total deaths.....	236	266	502

SECTION A (Statistics)—continued.

Comment.

Deaths from tuberculosis have dropped from 32 in 1945 to 23 in 1946 and is below the average for the previous ten years, 31.5. Deaths from cancer show a rise from 63 in 1945 to 68 in 1946 which is about the average of the previous ten years of 69.

It has to be borne in mind that with improved facilities for diagnosis, cancer may be diagnosed more accurately now than heretofore.

There have been no deaths in 1946 from puerperal sepsis or from other maternal causes. This is the first occasion on which this has happened as far as records go back, and is matter for great joy .

Under heading 16, "other respiratory diseases," nine men are recorded dying from silicosis. This is considerably less than it used to be. It was 21 in 1935 and over 50 on the average annual figure for 1911, 1912 and 1913.

This is undoubtedly due to the fact that fewer men in this "mining area" in Cornwall are now engaged in mining. In fact there is now only one tin mine working in the Urban Area. While this is a source of regret to many, it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good, and if it means the coming of healthier industries to the area, and fewer mines and miners, it will mean fewer brave men dying of a most exhausting and distressing illness, namely "miners' phthisis" or silicosis.

7. Silicosis.

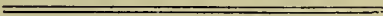
Under the various Industries Silicosis Medical Arrangements Scheme, 1931, the Medical Board, in this area, dealt with 46 claims as against 44 in the previous year.

The number of claims arising in the area was	.....	25
The number of claims arising outside the area was		21
		<u> </u>
Total		46

Of these 46 claims, eight were death claims, the others disability claims.

Disabled Cornish Miners returned from the Rand, South Africa, and examined during the year were:—

Those residing within the area	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Those residing outside the area	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
					<u> </u>
					Total 11



SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services in the area.

1. Nursing.

As this is not a Welfare Authority, no Health Visitors, Nurses or Midwives are at present employed by the Council.

2. Ambulance Facilities.

Excellent Ambulance facilities are available in the area. We are indebted to the County Commissioner, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Lt.-Col. W. Blackwood, D.S.O., M.B.E., M.B. (Knight of the Order), for the following information.

Motor Ambulances in the Area.

Station.	Garage.	Officer in Charge.
Camborne.	College Street. Tel. 2257 (Police).	Div. Supt. J. Jory, 6 Middle Centenary Row. Tel. 3215.
Illogan.	Agar Road, Pool. Tel. 417 Redruth.	Div. Supt. S. E. Polkinghorne, 103 Agar Road, Illogan Highway.
Redruth.	Bassett Street. Tel. 159 Redruth.	Div. Supt. F. Polkinghorne, "Rose Marie," South Downs, Redruth.
		or
Redruth "A."	do.	Div. Supt. Blamey, 17 Green Lane, Redruth.

Report of Divisions in the area for the year ending December 31st, 1946.

Division	Strength	First Aid Given	Patients Removed	Mileage	Road Accidents
Camborne	38	742	275	3649	19
Illogan	29	1065	250	3547	16
Redruth	34	2254	487	5248	53
Redruth "A "	36	1543			
Total	137	5604	1012	12444	88

Nursing Division.	Strength.	Attending Females.	Hours at Hospital.	Child Welfare.	First Aid Rendered.
Camborne	17	41	—	—	196
Portreath	8	—	113	—	60
Illogan	14	107	—	—	100
Redruth	29	163	—	—	204
Total	68	311	113	—	560

Cadets.

	Boys (Ambulance) Strength.	Girls (Ambulance) Strength.	Attended at Hospital.
Camborne	46	Camborne 21	—
Illogan	5	Penponds 14	43
Redruth	53	Illogan 25	127
Treleigh	17	Redruth 17	16½
Troon	23		
Total	144	77	186½

SECTION B (Health Services)—continued.

3. Nursing in the Home.

There are eight District Nursing Associations in the area, each affiliated with the County Nursing Association.

- President: Mrs. Malcolm Maclaren.
Honorary Secretary: Miss Margaret Smith, Lynn Allen, Truro.
County Superintendent: Miss A. White, "Katoomba," The Crescent, Truro.
Assistant County Superintendent: Miss Margaret Thomas, "Katoomba," Truro.

Association.	Local Secretary.
1. Camborne	Mrs. Britten, 55 Mount Pleasant Road, Camborne.
2. Redruth	Mrs. White, 129 Albany Road, Redruth.
3. Treslothan	Mrs. Simmons, 99 New Road, Troon.
4. North Illogan	Miss E. Luke, Park Bottom, Carn Brea.
5. South Illogan	Mr. Pascoe, 117 Agar Road, Illogan Highway.
6. Pencoys and Carnkie	Mrs. Collins, Four Lanes, Redruth.
7. Lanner	Mrs. Curnow, Glengarth, Lanner.
8. St. Day	Mr. Leonard Wills, 7 Mill Street, St. Day.

The shortage of nurses is acute, notwithstanding the increase of their emoluments and raised status. The work they have done is remarkably good, it cannot be too highly praised.

The District Nursing Association. Summary of Visits in 1946.

	New Cases.	Nursing Visits.	Maternal and Child Welfare.	Schools.
North Illogan	87	2,381	830	41
South Illogan	84	2,271	1,265	31
Redruth	196	6,393	1,238	
Camborne	226	6,377	2,110	
Treslothan	137	2,938	1,402	46
Pencoys	150	3,044	786	22
Lanner and Gwennap	119	3,284	285	50
St. Day and Carharrack	69	1,299	584	
Total	1,068	27,977	8,500	190

4. Hospitals.

The Camborne-Redruth Miners' General Hospital, Redruth.

The following details have been kindly given by Mr. J. Field, F.H.A., Secretary-Supt.

Total number of available beds	154
Average number of beds daily occupied	137.7
Number of patients admitted in 1946	2,521
Total number of new out-patients	4,342
Total number of out-patient attendances (including casualties)	26,831
Number of patients radiographed	2,691
Number of deep X-ray treatments	3,099
Number of superficial X-ray treatments	551
Number of radium treatments	91

The following special department facilities are available at the Hospital:

Ante-natal.	Medical.	Dental.
Gynæcological.	Ophthalmic.	Rehabilitation.
Diabetic.	Venereal Diseases.	Scabies.
Ear, Nose & Throat.	Radiotherapeutic.	
	Surgical.	

SECTION B (Health Services)—continued.

The Rivers' Pathological Department:

Number of specimens examined:—

Out-patients	.....	.....	.....	.....	821
General Wards	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,748
Private Wards	.....	.....	.....	.....	138
Maternity Department	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,448
Various Local Sanitary Authorities	.....	.....	.....	.....	900
					<hr/> 5,055 <hr/>

During the year a considerable amount of work was performed in conjunction with the Medical Research Council in connection with therapeutic and prophylactic measures against Silicosis and aluminium dust inhalation facilities have since been provided in the Hospital.

The new building for the Rehabilitation Department is now in full use, as also is the new building giving twelve additional nurses' bedrooms.

During the year, the Hospital took over for the Urban District Council the provision of treatment for Scabies.

An Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic has recently been opened.

During the year, the Hospital has been informed by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynæcologists that the Senior Resident appointment has been approved for the necessary training in obstetrics and gynæcology for its Membership.

The County Maternity Unit.

This department in the Hospital is under the administrative control of Dr. R. N. Curnow, County Medical Officer, with whose permission the following information has been kindly supplied by the Medical Officer in charge, Mr. J. G. Hastings, M.R.C.O.G., who is my chief in that department.

The Department includes:

1. The Maternity Ward	.....	.....	15 beds.
2. The Trewirgie Annexe	.....	.....	14 beds.
3. The Penventon Annexe	.....	.....	15 beds.
			<hr/> In all 44 beds. <hr/>

Additional beds are added temporarily as emergencies arise.

During the year, 836 patients were admitted thus:

	Booked Patients.	Emergencies	Total.
1. Delivered in Hospital	..... 552	..... 204	..... 756
2. For ante-natal treatment only	..... 10	..... 24	..... 34
3. Post natal treatment	..... 12	..... 21	..... 33
4. Abortions	..... 9	..... 3	..... 12
5. Not pregnant	..... —	..... 1	..... 1
Total Admissions		<hr/> 253 <hr/>	<hr/> 836 <hr/>

The 756 deliveries during the year included:

Instrumental delivery (forceps)	..... 35
Cæsarian sections	..... 11
For twins	..... 17

SECTION B (Health Services)—continued.

The Cæsarian section rate in booked cases was 1.2% and in emergencies 2.5%.

The maternal deaths were five emergency and two booked cases. The booked cases were due to severe pulmonary œdema, bilateral pyelonephritis and uræmia due to œsophageal ulceration. The emergency cases included two cases of toxæmia, one of accidental hæmorrhage, one inevitable abortion with liver failure and one of generalised sarcomatosis in pregnancy.

The total births included:	Live birth	.....	727
	Still births	.....	46
	Total	.....	773

Still birth rate. 59.5 per 1,000 total live and still births.

Neo natal deaths. 31 out of 760 live births (i.e., 727 delivered in hospital, and 33 admitted after delivery elsewhere).

Neo natal death rate. 42.7 per 1,000 live births.

Premature babies. 73 of which 22 died.

5. BLOOD TRANSFUSION.

The Regional Blood Transfusion Service has now become thoroughly well-established and is supplying up to 12 pints of Groups O and A blood weekly, with special Groups as required. The necessary transfusion equipment is also received from Bristol.

An annual blood collection, by a Mobile Bleeding Team, is planned to take place in suitable centres in the Urban District, so as to return to Bristol, in effect, the blood which is supplied week by week.

Volunteers should communicate with the Secretary-Superintendent at the Hospital, or with Mrs. I. Thomas, Honorary Secretary of the Camborne-Redruth Blood Transfusion Service, British Red Cross Society Headquarters (London Hotel Annexe), Redruth.

6. Private Nursing Homes.

There are in the area three private nursing homes:

1. **The Camborne Nursing Home.** Basset Road, Camborne. Miss J. D. Litten, S.R.N., and Miss P. L. Holton, S.R.N. There are 12 registered beds for maternity, surgical and medical patients.
2. **The Tremorvah Nursing Home.** Green Lane, Redruth. Miss E. Johns, S.C.M., and Miss B. MacLean, S.C.M. The home is registered for 13 maternity beds, and for one general case.

There were 152 maternity and midwifery patients during the year.

One maternity death. Six still births, of these two were attended by Doctors, and four were midwives' cases.

There were two sets of twins.

3. **The Redruth Nursing Home.** 10 Trewirgie Road, Redruth. Miss A. W. Andrews S.R.N., S.C.M. The home was registered on July 20th, 1945, for four maternity cases, and for six general cases.

7. **The Tehidy Sanatorium** is under the administrative control of the Cornwall County Council, Dr. R. N. Curnow. Medical Officer in charge, Dr. E. T. Gaspey.

There are 116 beds, 94 for medical patients and 22 surgical.

SECTION B (Health Services)—continued.

8. Clinics.

The Tuberculosis Clinic is held at Tuckingmill weekly.

The Orthopædic Clinic is held at Camborne weekly.

Minor Ailments Clinic is held at Camborne weekly.

Venereal Diseases Clinic for male and females is held at Camborne Redruth Miners' and General Hospital weekly.

These various clinics come under the administrative control of the County Medical Officer, Dr. Curnow. Further information about them can be found in his Annual Report to the County Council.

9. The Public Assistance Institution, Barncoose, Redruth.

This Institution has 192 beds, 99 of these being in the Infirmary. These are now entirely devoted to the treatment of the chronic sick, and the infirm.

10. Scabies.

Disinfestation of infested persons was carried out during the whole of the year at the Scabies Clinic of the Camborne-Redruth Miners' and General Hospital.

The number of persons disinfested in the year was 182 as against 247 in the previous year, and the number showed a steady decrease month by month.

There were 583 treatments given as against 564 in the previous year. This shows slightly more than three treatments per person infested for 1946 as against just over two treatments per person infested for 1945. However, the end result is better with fewer relapses and fewer new cases each month.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the area.

The following details have been kindly given by the Water Engineer, Mr. T. F. King, M.Inst., M. & Cy. E.

1. WATER.

A description of the Water Supply system for the area given in the Annual Report for 1937 and illustrated with a map.

It may be as well to reiterate that the water supply to the area is by two systems.

1. The Camborne Water Company area which comprises the Camborne Ward and the Illogan Ward (except for that part at Portreath ceded to the Urban District Council).
2. The Camborne-Redruth Urban District Council supply which covers the Redruth Ward, part of the Illogan Ward, and the St. Day and Lanner Ward.

The greater part of the Camborne Water Company's area which can be reached by gravitation is supplied. The areas above gravitation are not yet provided with piped supply.

The Camborne-Redruth Urban District Council supply (known as the Redruth System) by the present arrangement of zones is capable of reaching by gravitation the greater part of the population.

SECTION C (Sanitary Circumstances)—continued.

New Works.

During the year the Redruth System extended its supply by 6" trunk mains to the villages of St. Day and Carharrack. During the coming year it will be further extended to supply Lanner and Scorrier. Numerous branch mains will also be laid in St. Day and Carharrack. Various old mains which have become corroded will also be receiving attention.

General.

During the year a satisfactory and sufficient supply was maintained without resource to pumping.

Those parts of the area which are beyond the present limits of supply obtain water from various chutes and wells. These supplies, though of varying quality and quantity, receive constant attention, but as is realised do not form a satisfactory means of supply.

Analysis.

All supplies, including wells and chutes, are regularly bacteriologically analysed. The following results were obtained during the year. In all cases where analysis show Class III or IV a notice is posted on the site giving instruction to users to boil or otherwise treat the water before use.

Main Supply Sources.

Filtrick .....	.....	April	Class I.	October	Class I.
Penventon .....	.....	"	Class I.	"	Class I.
Penstruthal .....	.....	"	Class I.	"	Class I.
Distribution Mains .....	.....	January	Class I.	April	Class I.
		August	Class I.	October	Class I.

Wells and Chutes.

Five Chutes .....	.....	May	Class I.	December	Class I.
Pink Moors .....	.....	"	Class I.	"	Class III.
Vogue Chute .....	.....	"	Class I.	"	Class I.
Trevethlan Windlass .....	.....	"	Class I.	"	Class I.
Carnmarth Chute.....	.....	March	Class I.	July	Class I.
Trevarth Chute .....	.....	July	Class IV.	December	Class II.
Capt. Eddy's Chute .....	.....	"	Class III.	"	Class IV.
Primitive Chapel.....	.....	February	Class I.		
Tiddy's Chute .....	.....	March	Class IV.	September	Class IV.
Lanner Green .....	.....	"	Class I.		
Penhalurick Chute .....	.....	"	Class I.	October	Class III.
Gordon Tap .....	.....	"	Class I.	August	Class I.
Manorwidden .....	.....	"	Class I.	October	Class I.
Carharrack Pump .....	.....	"	Class I.	"	Class II.
Pennance Pump .....	.....	July	Class I.	December	Class I.
Lanner Pump .....	.....	September	Class I.		
Carnmarth Pump .....	.....	"	Class I.		
Mawla Well .....	.....	July	Class III.	December	Class IV.
Watergate Chute.....	.....	"	Class I.	November	Class III.
Nancekuke Chute .....	.....	"	Class I.	"	Class II.
Cambrose Pump .....	.....	"	Class IV.	"	Class II.
Parsonage Well .....	.....	February	Class III.	August	Class I.
Roscroggan Pump .....	.....	"	Class I.	"	Class I.
Tolskithy Chute .....	.....	"	Class III.	"	
Redruth Coombe.....	.....	"	Class II.	August	Class III.
Treskillard Tap .....	.....	August	Class I.		
Bosleake Pump .....	.....	"	Class I.		
Carnkie Tap .....	.....	"	Class I.		
Penponds Chute .....	.....	January	Class I.		
Roseworthy Chute .....	.....	"	Class I.	October	Class I.
Menadarva Chute .....	.....	"	Class III.	"	Class IV.
Oak Well .....	.....	"	Class III.	"	Class III.
Bolenowe .....	.....	February	Class II.	August	Class III.
Bolenowe Moor .....	.....	"	Class I.	"	Class I.
Chycarne Moor .....	.....	"	Class II.	"	Class I.
Betty Adit .....	.....	"	Class III.	"	Class I.
Knave-g-by .....	.....	September	Class I.		
Troon Adit .....	.....	"	Class I.		
Croft Michael .....	.....	"	Class I.		
Stennack Chute .....	.....	"	Class III.		
Little Reskadinnick .....	.....	November	Class I.		

SECTION C (Sanitary Circumstances)—continued.

The following details have been supplied by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. C. F. Baxter, Cert.R.S.I., Inspector of Meat and other foods, Cert.I.H., M.S.I.A., assisted by Mr. M. Nairn, Cert. R.S.I. Inspector of Meat and other foods, and Mr. T. A. Wignall, Cert.R.S.I. Army Certificate of Sanitation. These three men have worked loyally and hard and have shown a fine example of good team work.

2. Complaints.

The following complaints were received and dealt with during the year:—

Choked sewers and drains	666
Unsatisfactory housing conditions	144
Non-removal of house refuse	23
Overcrowding	13
Unsatisfactory sanitation and drainage	63
Verminous premises	6
Water supply	8
Rats and mice	80
Miscellaneous	27
Total	1030

3. Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied, Etc.

The following works were carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors during the period under review:—

Premises connected to the sewer	77
Drains relaid or repaired	17
New lengths of drain laid	219
Choked drains cleared	658
New water closets installed	79
Water closets repaired or renewed	27
Pail or pit closets abolished	12
Pail or pit closets repaired or renewed	2
Sanitary dustbins provided	2
Defective roofs repaired	33
Eaves gutters & down pipes repaired or renewed	8
Dampness remedied	32
Rooms cleansed	7
Walls and ceilings repaired	37
Floors repaired	7
Window frames & sash cords repaired or renewed	10
Doors repaired or renewed	4
Water supply improved	5
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed	11
Fire grates repaired or renewed	2
Other nuisances abated	19
Notices complied with during the year	108

Verminous Premises.

Alleged verminous premises, 9 in number, were investigated. (One for bugs and eight for fleas). In eight of these, disinfestation was carried out by the department. Spraying with an insecticide was effective in all cases, and the removal of woodwork, etc., became unnecessary.

Disinfection of Houses.

After the occurrence of an infectious disease, one hundred and sixty-seven visits were paid in all to 59 premises which were disinfected; 41 library books were removed from these premises, disinfected and returned to the libraries concerned. 11 houses and 2 bundles of bedding, etc., were disinfected at the request of owners or occupiers, and in each case the cost of the work was recovered.

SECTION C (Sanitary Circumstances)—continued.

4. Salvage.

During the year the following quantities of salvage were disposed of:—

	T.	C.	Q.
Paper and Cardboard	126	13	3
Newspapers	1	10	3
Selected Paper	13	2	0
Books	5	4	0
Bones	2	14	0
Bottles 1,505 dozen	149	4	2

No special drive was organised this year in connection with salvage and yet our total collection of paper was only 4½ tons less than that obtained in the previous year.

Every effort has been made to salvage bottles during the year, and as will be seen from the above figures, some 1,500 dozen bottles have been handled. Large as this number may be, we are far from being able to satisfy the demand for re-claimed bottles. £71/6/9 was realised from the sale of these bottles.

5. Kitchen Waste.

1,660 tons of kitchen waste were sold during the year. This is a very big drop on the total disposed of during the preceding year. The main reason for this was that Nancekuke Aerodrome was practically unoccupied for most of the year and it was only in December that any appreciable quantity of swill was again received from this source.

In an attempt to increase swill collections, some 60 bins were placed in the more populated parts of the area, and these bins met with varying successes. At one Housing Estate the bins were constantly misused and at the end of the year they had to be removed and placed elsewhere.

No complaints were received during the year concerning the efficiency of the cooking of this material. The demand for cooked kitchen waste still far exceeds the quantity available.

6. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

During the year further improvement was carried out in connection with the collection of refuse. Much of the refuse from Troon and Beacon was collected in a horse-drawn cart, and the refuse was disposed of at a controlled dump at Beacon Fields.

In June, this collection was taken over by a properly constructed refuse vehicle and the Beacon Fields dump was discontinued and sealed down. Thus, at the end of the year there were 5 refuse vehicles working together with one cart. This cart, operating for one day each week, collects refuse and the contents of buckets from a part of Four Lanes area. Owing to the nature of this particular part of Four Lanes the collection service has to operate from fields at the rear of houses, or alternatively, if operated from the front, the refuse and faecal matter would have to be brought through the individual house in most cases. As a lorry cannot operate in fields in all weathers, and the practice of bringing refuse, etc., through the house is most unsatisfactory, it was decided to retain the horse and cart for the time being.

During the summer the controlled tip at Tin Croft was set alight one week-end by, it is believed, children starting fires near the tip face. Considerable efforts were made to extinguish this fire without success, and in September a fresh site was obtained at Cooks Kitchen and a new controlled tip started there. With the inception of this new tip the policy of permitting all persons in the area with loads of rubbish and builders' rubble, etc., to dump at Cooks Kitchen under the supervision of the Council's tip man, was agreed upon. It was hoped by this method to prevent the dumping of unsightly material on the waste land in the area. Although not completely successful, considerable quantities of such material are properly dealt with at our tip.

SECTION C (Sanitary Circumstances)—continued.

The following quantities were disposed of at the controlled tips during the year:—

Refuse	3,846 loads
Rubbish and Highway Sweepings	1,229 loads

The 3,846 loads of refuse represents 25,862 cubic yards.

334 loads of extra refuse were dealt with this year in comparison with 1945.

7. Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Sewer Infestations.

During the summer and autumn a complete treatment of all sewers in the area was carried out. Where, during the first treatment a complete or partial take was observed, the points were treated for a second time.

Sausage rusk and zinc phosphide were the baits and poison used for the first treatment and bread and mash arsenic for the second treatment.

Statistics of the two treatments are as follows:—

First treatment.

Number of manholes baited	1,360
Number of manholes not baited	24
Number of complete takes	60
Number of partial takes	87
Total bait takes	147
Total bait no takes	2,573
Number of partial poison takes	75
Number of poison no takes	2,236

Second treatment.

Number of manholes treated	91
Number of complete takes	2
Number of partial takes	8
Total bait takes	10
Total bait no takes	372
Number of partial poison takes	3
Number of poison no takes	19

This course of treatment has shown that the sewers in the area are not heavily infested. Most of the infestations were found to occur in the towns of Redruth and Camborne. These areas, in addition to being more thickly populated, have a much older sewerage system. The comparatively new sewers of the Illogan Ward were found to be, in the main, free of rats.

Surface Infestations.

In September, 1946, the Council adopted the Ministry of Food's temporary scheme, whereby all private premises were treated free of cost to the occupier. The expense for such treatments being proportioned as follows:—60% - Ministry of Food. 40% - the Local Council. Under this scheme treatments at all business premises was charged to the occupier in the usual way.

Prior to October, 1946, the following surface infestations were treated:—Major infestations—6. Minor infestations—96.

Major Infestations.

Points baited	166
Poison takes	139
Bodies recovered	39

SECTION C (Sanitary Circumstances)—continued.

Minor Infestations.

Points baited	892
Poison takes	644
Bodies recovered	388

From October to the end of the year, 2 major and 51 minor infestations were treated as follows:—

Major Infestations.

Points baited	149
Poison takes	124
Bodies recovered	31

Minor Infestations.

Points baited	663
Poison takes	340
Bodies recovered	103

In addition to the work tabulated above, systematic block surveys were conducted, in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Food.

8. Cowsheds and Dairies.

Seventy-four visits were made to cowsheds and dairies during the year.

Ten cowshed premises were registered during the year.

Improvements carried out to dairy premises were as follows:—

Cowsheds.

New floors provided	12
Improved drainage	11
Walls cement rendered	8
Cleansed	2

Dairies.

New floors provided	7
Improved drainage	7

Milk Licences were issued as follows:—

Pasteurisation by short time process	1
Retailing pasteurised milk	4
Retailing T.T. milk	3
Bottling T. T. milk	1

9. Factories Act, 1937.

Only 13 visits were paid to factories in the area during the 12 months under review. Premises were only visited upon the receipt of complaints and no routine work in connection with this Act was carried out.

SECTION D. Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year.

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	370
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1358
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	114

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	87
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2

4. Overcrowding.

During August, the Council decided to allocate houses on the "Points System," and this threw a considerable amount of work on the Department in connection with points for overcrowding.

About 50% of the applicants claimed points for overcrowding, or near overcrowding, and each one of these claims was investigated. 556 visits were made in connection with overcrowding, and actual statutory overcrowding was found to exist in 66 cases. By the end of the year 25 of these cases had been re-housed in Council property, and the overcrowding was so abated.

The following details are of interest:—

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	43
(b) Number of families dwelling therein	64
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	274
(d) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	27
(e) Number of persons concerned in such cases	196

The following report on new housing has been kindly given by Major R. C. H. Greet, A.R.I.C.S., M.R.S.I., Chief Surveyor.

5. New Housing.

3rd April, 1947.

1. Need.

About 1,000 people have actually made application for a Council house. There are probably many more who need re-housing but who are deterred from making application by reason of the formidable waiting list.

SECTION D (Housing)—continued.

2. Programme.

The Council has an approved programme of 572 new traditional houses to be constructed in addition to any conversions or temporary houses that may be made or erected. It is estimated that traditional houses can be completed at the rate of 100 per annum.

3. Progress during 1946.

A start was made in 1945, but the programme really got under way in the second half of 1946, with the following results.

	Site.	No. of houses.	Completed in 1946.	Position at going to Press.
1.	North Close, Redruth.	16	12	Scheme completed.
2.	Pengegon.	50	50	Scheme completed.
3.	Tresaven, Lanner.	24	—	Scheme will be completed about June, 1947.
4.	Treloweth Road,	28	—	Several houses occupied. Scheme will be completed about June, 1947.
5.	Conversions.	4 1 Hotel.	38 Flats.	No further conversions being made at present time.

4. Programme for 1947.

(a) The Tresavean and Treloweth Road Schemes have to be completed.

(b) The allocation of houses on which construction may be started in 1947, is a further 124. These houses will probably be constructed as follows.

- (i) 44 — Paynters Lane End.
- (ii) 40 — Treleigh, Redruth.
- (iii) 40 — Pengegon, Camborne.

(c) In addition to these permanent houses, 50 additional prefabs are already under construction at:—

- (i) 28 — Pengegon.
- (ii) 22 — Strawberry Lane, Redruth.

It is likely that 14 Nissen huts at Portreath will be converted into dwelling houses, during the course of the year.

5. House Types.

Houses of various sizes (i.e., Bungalow, 2 bedroom and 3 bedroom types) are being constructed on each estate, and the proportions of each type are strictly in accordance with the need in that particular area.

It is probable that future schemes will contain a proportion of four bedroom types.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

1. Milk.

32 samples were taken of milk pasteurised at the Milk Marketing Board, Treswithian, during the 12 months under review. All 32 samples satisfied the Phosphatase Test showing that efficient pasteurisation had been maintained.

138 samples of milk were taken from vendors in the street, and subjected to the Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests as follows:—

Methylene Blue Test—Passed.

In the year	1940	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
% passed	71.4%	83.0%	71.4%	77.27%	84.2%	86.9%

Coliform Test—Passed.

In the year	1940	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
% passed	44.4%	51.5%	44.3%	53.8%	65.0%	57.9%

The percentage of samples passing the Methylene Blue Test this year is the highest recorded since 1940 and the Coliform Test results are above the average for a similar period. The production of clean milk depends to a large extent on the availability at all times of an adequate and wholesome water supply. At present many milk producers are seriously handicapped by the lack of a proper water supply, which permits the thorough cleansing of cowsheds and dairies and utensils twice each day, and makes the cooling of milk impossible.

There is no doubt that the Council's policy of providing a piped water supply throughout the district will materially improve the cleanliness of milk production in the area.

The Manager of the Milk Marketing Board has kindly furnished the following report for the year 1946.

The total milk received from producers showed a slight increase over the previous year, but with the increased demand for milk for liquid consumption, only a small quantity was made available for manufacture into butter and milk powder, during the months of May-July only. Over 90% of the total milk intake was processed and despatched for liquid consumption. Small quantities were pasteurised daily for local distribution, but the bulk of the milk was despatched in rail tanks to London.

During the year 17,373 gallons of milk were rejected to producers, 16,368 gallons due to poor keeping quality and 1,005 gallons due to poor chemical quality. It is unfortunate that such a large volume of milk of poor quality should be lost to the nation (representing a value of over £1,000 to producers alone), but it does emphasize the need for better conditions of production, the main essential being a better water supply for rural areas, to enable producers to cool their milk more efficiently. This point can be emphasized by the fact that 94% of all milk rejected, was in the 6 summer months, when atmospheric temperatures were high, and when water supplies on the majority of farms were almost absent.

During the year, the laboratory, which is licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture to carry out all tests necessary, tested every producer's supplies twice a month for keeping qualities and once a month for chemical composition, necessitating a total of some 50,000 tests during the year.

The vegetable Dehydration Unit closed in August, 1946.

2. Inspection of Meats and other Foods.

The number of animals slaughtered in the area was:—

				1944.	1945.	1946.
Cattle	.....	.....	.....	4,412	3,477	3,058
Calves	.....	.....	.....	9,669	10,526	15,137
Sheep	.....	.....	.....	4,411	4,452	3,960
Swine	.....	.....	.....	32,283	34,804	43,282
				<u>50,775</u>	<u>52,259</u>	<u>65,437</u>

SECTION E (Supervision of Food)—continued.

It will be seen that the number of animals slaughtered in the area continues to increase, although the annual number of cattle slaughtered has decreased by 1,354 in two years. In view of the bacon curing industry at Redruth it is interesting to note that the number of swine slaughtered has materially increased. However, this year's figure is well below that of 1940, when 69,305 swine were slaughtered.

2,190 visits were made for the purpose of meat inspection. Regular visits have been made each week to the two bacon factories, but it is quite impossible to see each animal which is slaughtered at these premises. Any animal which is in any way affected with disease is put to one side to await inspection by the Council's meat inspector.

The following whole carcasses were condemned as unfit for human consumption (in addition to numerous parts of carcasses and offals).

Cows carcasses	217
Bulls	4
Steer and heifer carcasses	25
Calves	33
Sheep	11
Swine	91
Total	381

The total weight of meat and offals condemned during the year was:—
102 tons. 1 cwt.

Slaughtering continues in four slaughter houses under the direction of the Ministry of Food and in the two licensed bacon factories. The conditions at the four Ministry slaughter houses are far from ideal and the existing unsatisfactory conditions are not likely to be overcome until a central local abattoir has been provided. During the year hot water and sinks have been provided at all slaughter houses which were lacking this essential amenity.

Other foods condemned.

176 visits were made in connection with the condemnation of foods other than butcher's meat. The following is a list of foods condemned:—

Tinned Meats	3,363 lbs.
Tinned fish	348 "
Wet fish	2753 "
Tinned milk	661 "
Tinned vegetables	797 "
Cereals	184 "
Tinned fruit	339 "
Miscellaneous	643 "
	9088 "

Total weight of other food condemned: 4 tons, 1 cwt., 16 lbs.

3. Food Premises.

121 visits were made to Food Premises for the purpose of inspection and recording.

9 premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The total number of premises so registered is now 66.

The register at present contains records of premises as follows:—

Grocers	62
Butchers	30
Fish and chips	24
Restaurants, Cooked Meats, etc.	27
Confectioners	6
Bakehouses	11
Ice-cream premises	14
Total	174

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

42 Slaughtermen were licensed under the above Act during the year.

SECTION F. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

1. Infectious diseases notified were:—

Measles	2
Scarlet Fever	36
Puerperal Pyrexia	55
Diphtheria	40
Whooping Cough	23
Pneumonia	25
Erysipelas	12
Poliomyelitis	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3
Cerebro-spinal Fever	4
Malaria	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	36
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary).....	1
Total	238

Measles. There were only two cases of measles during the year, which was to be expected, as this disease appears in epidemic form on alternate years.

Scarlet Fever. Sporadic cases occurred throughout the year totalling 36 for 1946. The maximum number of cases occurring during any one month happened in November when there were 10 cases. All cases were of a mild nature, only two being sent to the Isolation Hospital at Truro. This is in accordance with the modern policy in connection with this disease. In view of the danger of cross infection in hospital, it is regarded to be in the patients best interest for these mild cases of scarlet fever to be nursed at home.

Diphtheria. The small epidemic which had started in November and December 1945 carried on during the first three months of 1946. There were 4 cases in January, 20 in February and 10 in March, and in the ensuing nine months there were only six more cases making 40 for the year, 10 more than the previous year. Four cases died, none of which had completed a full course of immunisation. Ten cases had completed the full course of immunisation, and contracted the disease in a mild form and recovered. Eight of these cases occurred in the age group 5—9 years, and one in the age group 10—14 years, and one in the age group 4 years. In order to confer full protection against diphtheria it is now regarded as essential to give a child a third or “boosting” immunisation injection at the age of five just as they enter school. Largely as a result of the efforts of my predecessor Dr. Rivers a total of 1127 children under 15 years were immunised during 1946. 279 of these children were under 5 years and 848 over 5 years. The estimated mid-year population under 15 years was 7,280. Under the new system of immunisation inaugurated by Dr. Curnow it is now possible for a child to be immunised by the child's family doctor, free of charge, the doctor being paid by the County Council. Each child's name, address, date of birth and date of each injection is recorded on a card which is kept by the Medical Officer of Health for record purposes. Under this system it should be possible to have a better idea of the immunisation state of the child population of any given area in the County.

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis in 1946.

2. Tuberculosis. The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the beginning and the end of the year are here stated:—

	Pulmonary			Non-pulmonary			Total Pulmonary and Non-pulmonary
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Jan. 1, 1946	249	145	394	68	46	114	508
Dec. 31, 1946	262	157	419	68	47	115	534

Notified for the first time in the area were:—

19	20	39		1	1	40
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There is a slight increase of three in the number of notifications in 1946 compared with 1945, viz., 40 as against 37 for the previous year.

SECTION F (Infectious)—continued.

3. The County Isolation Hospital, Truro.

The number of patients admitted and the number of patients days residence.

	Patients Total				Patient-Days
Diphtheria (including carrier type)	47 1591
Scarlet Fever	2 71
Cerebro-spinal-meningitis	3 40
Tonsillitis	6 55
Intestinal upset	1 1
Headache	1 4
Total admissions and total patient days	60 1762

One case of cerebro-spinal-meningitis died in hospital.

A small number of cases of minor illness were admitted for diagnosis which, as can be seen from the above, turned out to be of a non-infectious nature.

